

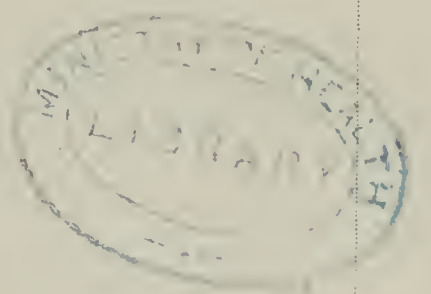
Wyndham Urban District

The

Annual Report  
for the year 1950

of the

Medical Officer of Health  
together with the  
Annual Report of the  
Sanitary Inspector





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ANNUAL REPORT  
for the year 1950 of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
to the WYMONDHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Madam Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year 1950, which has been compiled according to the direction of the Minister of Health.  
Staff.

Dr.W.W.Sinclair relinquished his post as your Medical Officer and was succeeded by Dr.A.E.Brown on the 13th. May, 1950.

It was the opinion of Dr. Sinclair and one which I now share as the result of my own experience, that the offices of the four Councils comprising "Area 5" are too far apart to permit of your Medical Officer carrying out his duties from them as bases, and I am pleased to record that the Councils concerned have accepted in principle the necessity of centralising as much routine work as possible in one office.

The County Council have acquiesced in the temporary Local Area Office at Long Stratton being used for this purpose and it is hoped that agreement on clerical assistance, etc., will soon be reached.

The Council is wise in recognising that the Senior Sanitary Inspector, who is also the Council's Surveyor, now requires additional technical assistance in order that the sanitary work of the district may be satisfactorily carried out, and I hope I shall be able to record the appointment of this additional officer in my next Annual Report.

Vital Statistics.

Detailed figures are given in tables in the conclusions to this report, while certain items on which I have seen fit to comment are dealt with below.

Population.

The Registrar General estimates the population of your district to be 5,633, an increase of 57 on his estimate for the year 1949.

There were 97 live births and 62 deaths in the year under review - a natural increase of 35 - so that movement into your district has still continued. There has been a steady rise in your population during recent years.

Birth Rate.

The birth rate for 1950 was 17.21 per 1,000 of the population and the figure is compared with that for previous years and with corresponding figures for England and Wales in Tables 9 and 10.

The death rate was 11.0 per 1,000 and corresponding comparisons will also be found in the same Tables.

Still Births.

There were 4 still births recorded during the year - a slight but not significant increase on recent years.



### Infant Mortality Rate.

There was only one death of a child under one year of age and this occurred during the neonatal period. This gave an infant mortality rate of only 10.3 - a very satisfactory figure.

### Causes of Death.

Causes of, and age at, death are shown in Tables 7 and 8. Diseases specifically associated with old age accounted for 66% of the total and deaths from cancer amounted to 16% of the total. The number of deaths from the latter during post-war years is shown in Table 18 and it will be noted that the figures show no significant change.

### Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis.

246 cases of infectious disease were notified during 1950. Details are given in Tables 11 and 12.

There was a minor epidemic of whooping cough in the latter half of the year and one of measles in the first two quarters. Cases were mild and there were no deaths.

There was an increase in the incidence of poliomyelitis throughout the county, mostly occurring in the late summer, and three cases were notified in Wymondham. One of these proved fatal. (This case is not included in Wymondham deaths return as the patient only lodged in the area).

### Tuberculosis.

In Table 14 is shown the state of the Tuberculosis Register at the 31st. December, 1950. Forty cases remained on it, 20 classed as pulmonary, and 20 as non-pulmonary. Three new cases were notified during the year, 2 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary, and 7 were removed as recovered (2) or removed (5) from the district. There was 1 death from this disease.

I regret that the functioning of the machinery for the control of tuberculosis is unsatisfactory, resting as it does in the hands of three authorities, i.e., the Regional Hospital Board, the County Council and yourselves. A conference has been arranged, as a result of which I hope co-ordination will be improved. Meantime, a step in the right direction has been taken in Norfolk by District Medical Officers agreeing on a standard method of keeping the Tuberculosis Register.

Sufferers from Tuberculosis often require considerable assistance if they are not to be a danger to others, if they are to maintain the standard of life to which they and their families have been accustomed and if they are to become again either fully self-supporting or as near so as possible.

Good housing is of first importance and I am pleased to say that the Council have shown their recognition of these facts by giving a high degree of housing priority and where necessary rent rebates to these sufferers.

### Vaccination.

A total of 56 vaccination notifications have been received in respect of children born during 1950, compared with a total of 97 live births registered for the district, giving a vaccination rate of 36%. The figure for Area 5 is 47.4%. These are below those for 1949, as is shown in Table 17.

### Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Model bylaws made under Section 15 of the above Act were

adopted by you in July, 1950, and came into operation in November, 1950. Although they may be difficult to fully implement at the present time, they are another weapon in the hands of your officers and their adoption is a step in the direction of improving the hygienic preparation, serving and wrapping of food.

### Housing.

This still remains the largest single problem facing the country.

My predecessor has drawn attention in his report for 1949 to the need for more factual information on the state of fitness of existing houses. I endorse this view. The envisaged appointment of an Assistant Sanitary Inspector should make possible a complete house-to-house survey. The information thus obtained could, and should, be kept reasonably up to date in the course of the routine work of the department. A complete overhaul might be required every four years, but records would provide a permanent and readily available source of information for the Council and its officers.

This is all the more important because there is evidence that many properties are falling into disrepair as a direct result of the operation of the Rent Restrictions Acts. Never were houses more needed than in the present decade and never was there a position more foolish than that which exists at present in so far that owners are manifestly not in a position to keep their properties in reasonable repair. These remarks apply particularly to a district such as yours where a large proportion are rented at a few shillings a week only.

You are already aware that there are serious practical incompatibilities between the Public Health and Housing Acts on the one hand and the Rent Restrictions Acts on the other. I would point out that the former are the outcome of a century of slow and methodical progress in the field of Public Health and in my opinion it is a great pity that temporary financial expedients such as the Rent Restrictions Acts should prejudice the operation of sounder and more permanent legislation.

I hope the Council will use its influence when and where it can in the direction of securing suitable amendments to these Acts.

The allocation of a Council house usually leads, as it is intended to lead, to a general rise in the living standards of the rehoused families, but in a considerable number of cases the houses are not used to their best advantage. A survey of your Council houses showed approximately 12% to be clean and well kept, while 4% could only be described as dirty. The surest way to secure maximum benefit from a rehousing programme is to ensure the education of the growing child in the best use of the amenities provided and to foster in them, both boys and girls, an imaginative interest in their future homes.

With this in mind, I have secured the co-operation of the Headmistress of the Modern Secondary School, and a beginning has been made by a group of older children visiting a new unoccupied house, this visit then being used as a basis for teaching.

### Housing Application List.

On Page 5 of the Sanitary Inspector's report is shown the state of the housing application list. I am sorry to have to note that the new building is not keeping pace with the demand as the steady increase in applications through the years 1948/49/50 show. With the exception of families with one child,



all classes have shown increases, but the greatest increase is in the numbers of old folk requiring bungalows which has risen from 11 in 1948 to 54 in 1950, an increase of 500%.

This, in spite of the fact that both the Council and private building has been carried out to the permitted limit.

#### Water Supply.

Your Sanitary Inspector has reported in detail on the town water supply and I am pleased to note that its quality has remained satisfactory in spite of the difficulties which have been encountered during the year.

The Council already realises that the present works are unable to cope with the demand and I have pointed out that the population of the district has been growing steadily. It is a pity that circumstances arising from output tests at the Head Works have brought about a position in which there is no reserve water supply and the town is existing more or less on a day to day basis. I think it only fair to state that this unsatisfactory position has arisen for reasons largely outside the control of the Council.

About one third of the houses are still supplied with water from shallow wells and it will be noted that more than one half of those sampled during the year gave unsatisfactory results bacteriologically - findings which serve to emphasise the undesirability of this source of water and the need for connection to mains wherever practicable.

#### Sewage Disposal.

The Sanitary Inspector has reported on Page 1 of his report that the conditions at the Sewage Works remain the same as in recent years. These works are overloaded and it is disappointing that no effective steps have been taken to remedy the position in spite of attention having been drawn to the need by my predecessor in his Annual Reports for 1948 and 1949.

I would like to thank members of the Council for their co-operation, the other officers for their assistance, and Mr. Hudson for the willing and friendly manner with which he has carried out his duties.

I would also mention that I am indebted to the staff of my office at Long Stratton for much assistance in the preparation of this report.

Yours faithfully,

A. E. BROWN.

M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Table 1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in Acres)	10,950.
Estimated Resident Population	5,633.
Rateable Value	£22,187.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£37.

Table 2. LIVE BIRTHS.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	49.	44.	93.
Illegitimate	3.	1.	4.
Total	52.	45.	97.

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of  
estimated Resident Population

17.21.

Table 3. STILL BIRTHS.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	2.	1.	3.
Illegitimate	1.	-	1.
Total	3.	1.	4.

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 per  
estimated Resident Population.

.71.

Table 4. DEATHS (all ages).

Males.	Females.	Total.
35.	27.	62.

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of  
estimated Resident Population.

11.00.

Table 5. INFANT MORTALITY. (Deaths of Infants under 1 year).

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	1.	-	1.
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	1.	-	1.

Infant Mortality per 1,000  
Live Births.

10.3.

Table 6. CAUSE OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Congenital Malformations	1.	-	1.

Table 7. CAUSE OF TOTAL DEATHS (Registrar General).

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.	1	-	1
2. Tuberculosis, other.	-	--	-
3. Syphilitic disease.	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria.	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough.	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections.	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis.	-	-	-
8. Measles.	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	1	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	1	-	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	-	-
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	1.	1.
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms.	3	4	7
16. Diabetes.	-	-	-
17. Vasxular lesions of nervous system.	-	2	2
18. Coronary disease, angina.	8	5	13
19. Hypertension with heart disease.	-	-	-
20. Other heart disease.	10	10	20
21. Other circulatory disease.	2	1	3
22. Influenza.	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia.	-	-	-
24. Bronchitis.	1	-	1
25. Other disease of respiratory system.	2	1	3
26. Ulcer of stomach & deodenum.	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.	2	-	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.	2	-	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.	1	-	1
32. Other defined and ill- defined diseases.	2	1	3
33. Motor vehicle accidents.	-	-	-
34. All other accidents.	-	-	-
35. Suicide.	-	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war.	-	-	-
Total	35.	27.	62.



Table 8. NOTIFICATIONS OF DEATHS RECEIVED DURING  
THE YEAR 1950. (According to Age Groups).

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 year.	1.	-	1.
1 and under 5.	-	-	-
5 " " 10.	-	-	-
10 " " 20.	-	-	-
20 " " 30.	-	-	-
30 " " 40.	-	-	-
40 " " 50.	1.	1.	2.
50. " " 60.	6.	1.	7.
60 " " 70.	12.	6.	18.
70 " " 80.	9.	9.	18.
80 " " 90.	3.	8.	11.
90 " " 100.	2.	3.	5.
Total	34.	28.	62.

Table 9. SUMMARY OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS RATES.

	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.
<u>Live Births (per 1000 pop).</u>					
Wymondham Urban District.	20.9	21.32	15.41	15.61	17.21
Englad and Wales.	19.1	20.5	17.9	16.7	15.8
<u>Still Births (per 1000 total births).</u>					
Wymondham Urban District.	18.68	41.32	22.98	22.5	39.6
<u>Crude Deaths (per 1000 pop).</u>					
Wymondham Urban District.	14.2	11.95	12.88	12.7	11.0
England and Wales.	11.5	12.0	10.8	11.7	11.6
<u>Infant Mortality (per 1000 live births).</u>					
Wymondham Urban District.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	11.49	10.3
England and Wales.	43.0	41.0	34.0	32.0	29.8

Table 10. BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1950. PROVISIONAL FIGURES BASED ON QUARTERLY RETURNS.

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census	Area 5. Diss and Wymondham, Depwade and Loddon Districts)
	Rates per 1,000 Home Population			
Births:				
Live Births	15.8	17.6	16.7	14.75
Still Births	0.37	0.45	0.38	0.30
Deaths:				
All Causes	11.6	12.3	11.6	12.12.
Typhoid and paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping cough	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.36	0.42	0.33	0.22
Influenza	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.10
Smallpox	-	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00
Pneumonia	0.46	0.49	0.45	0.32
Notifications (Corrected)				
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Meningococcal infection	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.05
Scarlet fever	1.50	1.56	1.61	1.67
Whooping cough	3.60	3.97	3.15	6.87
Diphtheria	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00
Erysipelas	0.17	0.19	0.16	0.35
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	-	-
Measles	8.39	8.76	8.36	19.80
Pneumonia	0.70	0.77	0.61	0.97
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis) Paralytic	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.25
Non paralytic	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.07
Food Poisoning	0.17	0.16	0.14	0.12
Deaths:				
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births			
All causes under 1 year of age	29.8(a)	33.8	29.4	13.56
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.9	2.2	1.6	3.3
Notifications (Corrected)				
Puerperal fever and pyrexia	5.81	7.43	4.33	6.64

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales.		
International List No. and Cause.	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and still)Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
651. Abortion with sepsis	0.09	7
650,652. Other abortion	0.05	4
640-649, 670-678. Complication of pregnancy and delivery	0.54	-
681. Sepsis of childbirth and the puerperium,	0.03	
680,682-689, Other complications of the puerperium	0.15	

(a) Per 1,000 related live births.

Table 11. NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS) ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

	Under 1.	1-2 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	Over 25	Total.
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	3.	2.	3.	-	1.	9.
Measles.	6.	34.	41.	64.	5.	3.	4.	157.
Whooping Cough.	2.	11.	19.	33.	-	-	-	65.
Pneumonia.	-	1.	-	-	-	-	1.	2.
Infective Jaundice.	-	-	-	-	1.	-	4.	5.
Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	1.	2.	3.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.
Encephalitis.	1.	-	1.	-	-	-	-	2.
Encephalitis Lethargica.	-	1.	-	-	-	-	-	1.
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.	1.
Total	10.	47.	64.	99.	9.	4.	13.	246.

Table 12. INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING 1950 (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

	Quarters.				Total.
	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	
Scarlet Fever.	2.	-	-	6.	9.
Whooping Cough.	-	7.	34.	24.	65.
Measles.	145.	9.	2.	1.	157.
Pneumonia.	2.	-	-	-	2.
Encephalitis (post infectious).	1.	-	1.	-	2.
Erysipelas.	-	1.	-	-	1.
Encephalitis Lethargica.	-	1.	-	-	1.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	-	-	-	1.	1.
Poliomyelitis (paralytic).	-	-	3.	-	3.
Infective Hepatitis.	4.	-	1.	-	5.
Total	154.	19.	41.	32.	246.

Table 13. TUBERCULOSIS (Details of New Cases during 1950).

Age Period.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 4.	-	-	-	-
5 - 14.	1.	-	-	1.
15 - 24.	-	-	-	-
25 - 34.	-	-	-	-
35 - 44.	1.	-	-	-
45 - 54.	-	-	-	-
55 - 64.	-	-	-	-
65†	-	-	-	-
Total	2.	-	-	1.



Table 14. TUBERCULOSIS (Number of Cases on T.B. Register end 1950).

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary.	15.	5.	20.
Non-Pulmonary.	6.	14.	20.
Total	21.	19.	40.

Table 15. DETAILS OF NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS FOR LAST FIVE YEARS.

		1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.
Pulmonary.	M.	3.	2.	1.	1.	2.
	F.	2.	2.	-	-	-
Non-Pulmonary.	M.	1.	3.	-	1.	-
	F.	2.	-	-	-	1.
Total		8.	7.	1.	2.	3.

Table 16. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SCHEME.

The following table shows the immunisation state of the children in Area 5, comprising Diss & Wymondham Urban Districts and Depwade & Loddon Rural Districts for the year ended 31st. December, 1950.

	Under School Age.	School Age.	Total.
Numbers immunised.	1450.	4,625.	6,075.
Estimated Population.	3274.	5,905.	9,179.
Percentage immunised.	44.2	78.3	66.1

Table 17. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

The state of vaccination of children born during 1949 and 1950 resident in the District and in Area 5, comprising Diss and Wymondham Urban Districts and Depwade and Loddon Rural Districts is shown in the following table.

	Wymondham U.D.		Area 5.	
	1949.	1950.	1949.	1950.
Number of live births registered.	87.	97.	616.	590.
Number of vaccinations recorded.	46.	36.	340.	280.
Percentage vaccinated.	52.3	37.1	55.2	47.4

Table 18. DEATHS DUE TO CANCER.

	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.
Number of Deaths.	12.	14.	10.	13.	10.
Percentage of Total Deaths.	15.8	21.5	14.0	18.3	16.1

SUMMARY OF MEDICAL SERVICES AVAILABLE  
IN AREA NO. 5.

For the information and guidance of Council Members, a summary of the Medical Services available to the No. 5 Area (comprising Depwade and Loddon Rural Districts and Wymondham and Diss Urban Districts) under the National Health Service Acts, is given below.

The National Health Service Act came into operation on 5th. July, 1948, and is designed to provide a comprehensive Health service for the whole population. Only the briefest summary of its provision will be given here. Hospital and specialist services are provided in the area by the Cambridge Regional Hospital Board. The only Institute in No.5 area under the direction of the Board is the Mental Deficiency Institute at Heckingham.

Health Service provided by the Norfolk County Council under Part III of the Act

Section 22 Care of Mother and Young Children

Ante-natal and post-natal clinics have not been established but examinations are carried out by general medical practitioners acting as agents for the Norfolk County Council. Cases requiring a second opinion are referred to specialist obstetricians at the Norwich and Yarmouth Hospitals. Special equipment for premature babies is held in central depots and is available on loan for use in the patients' homes.

Infant Welfare Centres are held monthly at Diss, Loddon, Long Stratton and Wymondham with a Medical Officer and a Health Visitor in attendance. Extra nourishment, in the form of medicaments, when considered advisable, is issued free. Baby foods are also available. Diphtheria immunisation and vaccination against small pox is carried out by the Medical Officer on request.

Village Infant Welfare centres have also been established throughout the Area. These are listed below and are attended by the District Nurse. Sessions are held monthly and a supply of Welfare foods and medicaments is available where required. A Medical Officer is not normally in attendance.

Alpington	Earsham	Thurlton
Bressingham	Ellingham	Topcroft
Brockdish	Gillingham	Winfarthing
Brooke	Hales	Woodton
Bunwell	Langley	
Denton	Spooner Row	
Ditchingham	Tacolneston	

At the time of this report the centre at Ditchingham has been discontinued and a new one established at Hales.

In addition, infant weighing facilities are available to mothers living in those parishes not covered by the above centres. These weighing centres are established at :

Burgh St. Peter	Haddiscoe	Scole
Dickleburgh	Hempnall	Tasburgh
Fornsett St. Peter	Pulham Market	Tivetshall

Dental treatment for infants and pre-school children, and expectant mothers, already referred to in this report, is provided where possible, by the School Dental Officer.

Sections 23, 24 and 25. Midwifery Services. Heath Visiting and Home Nursing

There is a total of 19 district nurse midwives in the Area, available for domiciliary confinements.



Infant Health visiting is carried out as far as possible by qualified Health Visitors but owing to the shortage these duties are otherwise combined with those of the district nurses who are also required to undertake home nursing. There is no special provision for a night nursing service.

#### Section 26. Vaccination against Smallpox and Diphtheria Immunisation

These services are normally carried out by the medical practitioners, but as already stated are available at Infant Welfare Centres. There is no charge to the parents.

Diphtheria Immunisation sessions are also arranged at schools throughout the area and parents are urged to give their consent both for primary and reinforcing injections, and is carried out by the local medical practitioners.

The County Council has made arrangements for Registrars of Births and Deaths to issue to all persons registering births leaflets which stress the importance of vaccination and immunisation. This is followed up by a further pamphlet, in the form of a birthday card, which is sent to the home by the Local Health Office when the child reaches the age of one year

#### Section 27. Ambulance Service

Ambulance for the conveyance of patients, other than infectious disease cases are stationed at Attleborough, Diss, Harleston, Beccles and Norwich.

For patients suffering from infectious diseases, an ambulance and a sitting-case car are available at East Dereham Isolation Hospital. In addition, a sitting-case car service also exists for those patients able to travel by car, but who are unable, for medical reasons to travel by public conveyance.

#### Section 28. Prevention of Illness, Car and After-care.

##### A. Tuberculosis

Two Health Visitors are available in the County who are engaged on after-care work and prevention and they also attend session at the Chest Clinic. Shelters, bedding and other equipment is supplied when considered advisable as also is extra nourishment in suitable cases.

##### B. Mental Health

After-care visits are made where advisable by the two Local Welfare Officers and a Psychiatrist Social Worker. These officers have various other duties particularly under Section 51 mentioned below.

##### C. Provision of Nursing Equipment

Twelve British Red Cross Society and two St. John Ambulance Brigade Medical Loan Depots have been established in the area and these are listed below. Sick-room equipment and other items such as wheel-chairs may be obtained on loan by applications preferably supported by a doctor or district nurse. The Society or Brigade is reimbursed by the County Council and there is no charge to the patient.

<u>Red Cross</u>	Harleston/ Tacolnston & Ashwellthorpe Ashby Hempnall	Long Stratton Pulham Market Geldeston Bergh Apton	Diss Raveningham Loddon Wymondham
<u>St. John.</u>	Diss	Winfarthing	



## Section 29. Domestic Help

The Home Help Service administered by the Norfolk County Council provides assistance where domiciliary confinement, children without a mother, sickness, blindness, old age and infirmity or mental deficiency render this necessary. This is an extremely valuable service which, where the means of the family justify it, is provided at a reduced cost or even free. The Home Helps are solely concerned with helping to run the house, cleaning it, preparing meals, caring for children, but nursing duties are outside their province.

It is not at present possible to place a Home Help in a "problem" homes where the visual education she would provide could be expected to lead to a higher standard of housewifery in selected cases.

Although there are approximately 40 Home Helps available in the area, it must be emphasised that there are districts which are not covered.

## Section 51. Mental Health Service

The National Health Service Act makes the major local authorities responsible for initial proceedings under the Lunacy and Mental Deficiency Acts and for this purpose as well as the care and after-care of patients suffering from mental illness, two local Welfare Officers - designated Duly Authorised Officers - cover the No. 5 Health Area. The Welfare Office is at "Willowdene", Long Stratton, telephone Long Stratton 220.

An Occupation Centre has been established at Sprowston for suitable ineducable children who have been notified under Section 57 (3) of the Education Act, 1944, and it is hoped to establish a centre at Diss for children in that District. A Home Teacher visits those children unable to attend.

## Education Act 1944

All school children other than those attending private schools are medically examined periodically and parents are invited to attend these consultations. Treatment is provided by the County Council for certain cases of defect, but in general is arranged through the family doctor.

## National Assistance Act (Section 29)

Arrangements have been made by the County Council for advice and assistance to be given to blind, deaf, dumb or other seriously disabled persons. Details can be obtained either from the Local Health Office, "Willowdene" Long Stratton, or from the County Medical Officer direct.

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SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR 1950.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Wymondham Urban District Council.

Madam Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Sanitary Inspector for the year ended 31st. December, 1950.

Staff.

Your Sanitary Inspector holds in addition the appointments of Highway Surveyor, Building Surveyor and Petroleum Inspector and has the services of two male clerks. The question of the appointment of an additional Sanitary Inspector was under consideration at the end of the year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The system of sewerage in the town is a partially separate system. It was originally intended that it should be a separate system, but a considerable quantity of surface water now finds its way into the foul sewers and the Lea Recorder shows that the flow increases from about 200,000 gallons (average dry weather flow) to above the 1,000,000 mark during periods of heavy rain.

The Silfield Road sewer, which takes the drainage from the Silfield Housing Estate, has given trouble on a number of occasions and the Council has agreed to the construction of an additional manhole on one section where the distance between manholes is 120 yards. Apart from this there have been no serious stoppages during the year.

During the year the Bungalow site, Back Lane, was sewered, the work consisted of the laying of about 186 yards of 6" G.S.S. pipes with an outfall to the existing 9" sewer in Middleton Street. The scheme included the construction of three precast concrete manholes.

The position at the sewage works remains the same, the question of additions and alterations to the works is in the hands of the Council's Consulting Engineers.

Water.

(a) Town Supply.

There is a piped water supply in the Urban part of the district with Pumping Station situate at Wicklewood in the Rural District of Forchae & Henstead. The undertaking is owned by the Wymondham Urban District Council.

The headworks comprise 2 - 12" boreholes each 300 ft. in depth. During the year the two Harland Centrifugal Pumps were removed and replaced by two 6,000 gallons per hour submersible pumps. The water is filtered, softened and chlorinated and the storage reservoir has a capacity of 2,000,000 gallons.

There are between 12 and 13 miles of mains with diameters of from 3" to 7", serving about 2/3rds. of the total population of the Urban District, by gravity.

The water from the bores has a hardness of 19.6 degrees



(17.5 temporary and 2.1 permanent) this is reduced by treatment to about 7 degrees of hardness.

The only extension during the year was from the existing 4" main in Middleton Street to the Bungalow Site, Back Lane, and consisted of 148 yards of 3" diameter spun iron pipe.

Some progress was made during the year in connection with the improvements at the Headworks. After a good deal of delay one of the bores was subjected to a pumping test. A full test could not be applied owing to the influx of sand, and the Council was advised that it might be necessary to sink a number of boreholes and instal pumps with a much lower output, than originally envisaged. The existing Harland Centrifugal Pumps were replaced by two 6,000 gallons per hour submersible pumps in the existing bores.

The position at 31st. December, 1950 was that the Engineers had been instructed to proceed with a scheme as follows:-

- Stage I. (a). The sinking and testing of a new bore.  
 (b). The installation of a third new pump in the new bore, subject to confirmation that the same type of pump is still advisable.
- Stage 2. (a). The sinking and testing of 2 further bores.  
 (b). The provision and installation of new pumps in these bores.

The results of analysis of samples of water taken at the headworks are set out overleaf.

Two further samples were taken from the mains for Bacteriological examination and in each case the result was the same, viz:-

"This sample is highly satisfactory".

Summary of Water Officer's Weekly Reports for the year ended 31st. December, 1950.

<u>Month.</u>	<u>Water Pumped and Softened.</u>	<u>Lime Used.</u>	<u>Alumina Used.</u>
January.	5,058,350.	11,018.	304.
February.	4,765,000.	11,004.	304.
March.	4,882,750.	11,172.	304.
April.	5,485,000.	12,864.	380.
May.	4,391,000.	9,492.	304.
June.	5,176,000.	12,754.	-
July.	5,845,000.	10,952.	-
August.	4,319,000.	10,636.	76.
September.	5,526,000.	15,708.	380.
October.	4,338,000.	12,668.	304.
November.	4,204,350.	11,915.	304.
December.	5,321,000.	14,602.	380.
	<u>59,311,450.</u>	<u>144,785 lbs.</u>	<u>3,040 lbs.</u>

		= tons cwts. lbs.	= tons cwts. lbs.
		64. 12. 81.	1. 7. 16.
1949.	66,340,100	68. 12. 57.	2. 2. 22.
	Decrease	<u>3. 19. 88.</u>	<u>15. 6.</u>

2.54397 lbs. of lime used to every 1,000 gallons.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER.

Sample received from Wymondham Urban District Council.

Mark or Seal: ex High Oak Waterworks.

The chemical results are stated in parts per million.

Nitrogen.		Chloride as Chlorine.	Nitric Nitrogen.	Nitrous Nitrogen.	Hardness (Soap Test) Temp. Perm. Total.		Bacteriological Results			Physical Characters and other data.	
Ammonia- acal.	Albumi- noid.						Colonies per ml. on agar at 37°C.	Bacillus Present in.	Coliform Absent in.		
0.04.	0.01.	22.	Nil.	Nil.	300.	72.	372.	None.	—	100mil.	PH 6.9. Perfectly clear when drawn & when received in 1b. Opalescent on standing with very slight dep. of iron.
Free carbonic acid 49.5. Iron in solution 1.0.											

Remarks: This water is of very good organic quality and excellent bacteriological condition. It shows no sign whatever of any pollution. The free carbonic acid is rather high, and the water contains a trace of iron in solution. Aeration reduces the carbonic acid to a much lower figure and most of the iron is deposited at the same time and can be filtered off. Given treatment along these lines, the water is very suitable for drinking and general purposes; it is not at all likely to have any solvent action on metals.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER.

Sample received from Wymondham Urban District Council.

Mark of Seal - Water from Wymondham Waterworks.

The chemical results are stated in parts per million.

Total Solids in Solution.	Nitrogen.		Chloride as Chlorine.	Nitric Nitrogen.	Nitrous Nitrogen.	Oxygen absorbed from permanganate 4 hrs. 80° F.	Hardness (Soap Test) Temp. Perm. Total.	Bacteriological Results.		Physical Characters and other data.
	Ammoniacal.	Albuminoid.						Colonies per ml. on agar at 37° C.	Facilities present in.	
445.	0.05	0.01	21.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	264. 70. 334.	1.	- 100 ml.	Bright and clear. Metals in solution: Nil. PH 7.0.

Remarks: This water is of very good organic quality and its bacteriological condition is excellent. There is no sign of any pollution in any form. The hardness, most of which is temporary, is normal for the area. The reaction is neutral, and it is unlikely that this water would have any solvent action on metals. The water is quite fit for drinking and general purposes.



During the month of July 2,397,000 gallons of water was pumped and not softened due to tests being carried out at the Waterworks. This quantity has not been taken into account when calculating the amount of lime used per 1,000 gallons.

<u>Connections.</u>	<u>From Main to Stop-Cock.</u>	<u>From Stop-Cock to Premises.</u>	<u>Meters Installed.</u>
January.	3.	5.	-
February.	4.	8.	1.
March.	4.	4.	-
April.	2.	3.	-
May.	-	1.	-
June.	-	1.	1.
July.	-	4.	-
August.	1.	2.	-
September.	-	-	-
October.	-	1.	-
November.	1.	-	-
December.	-	1.	-
	<u>15.</u>	<u>30.</u>	<u>2.</u>

Parish of Hingham consumed	...	...	7,918,770 gallons.
Parish of Hethersett consumed (9.9.50 to 31.12.50).	...	...	56,590 "
Wymondham alone consumed	...	...	51,336,090 "
Average daily consumption in Wymondham	...	...	140,647 "
Average daily consumption in Hingham	...	...	21,695 "
Average daily consumption in Hethersett,	...	...	496 "
Consumption through meter (including Hingham and Hethersett)	...	...	20,005,012 "
Ditto	...	1949	20,314,404 "
			<u>309,392.</u>
		Decrease of	

#### Number of Consumers.

Meters 57. Special arrangement 22. Building supplies 6.  
Domestic 1250. Total 1335.

#### (b) Other Supplies.

Approximately one third of the houses in the district are outside the limits of the piped supply or have not been connected to the mains. In most cases the source of supply is a shallow well and with very few exceptions these provide an unsatisfactory or suspicious water.

During the year 14 samples from shallow wells were submitted for Bacteriological Examination and the results were as follows:-

8 Unsatisfactory.  
4 Suspicious.  
2 Satisfactory.

In addition samples were submitted for Bacteriological Examination from two private bores, one result being "satisfactory" and the other "highly satisfactory".

With regard to the unsatisfactory and suspicious wells:-

- 4 were cleaned out and limed;
- 1 property was connected to town supply;
- 1 owner has promised to connect to town supply;
- 3 negotiations with owners in progress reference possibility of connecting to town supply, and
- 3 remedial work to wells contemplated.

### Housing.

#### (a) New Housing Progress.

During the year 56 houses were completed and occupied, 46 by the Council and 10 by Private Enterprise, and at the close of the year 13 were under construction, 12 by the Council and 1 by Private Enterprise.

Two bungalows were being built without licence within the £100 free limit.

The position with regard to post war housing at the end of the year under review was that a grand total of 210 houses had been completed and occupied, 15 temporary and 144 permanent by the Council and 51 by Private Enterprise.

As at the 31st. December, 1950 the register of applications for Council houses from persons residing or working in the Urban District shows 208 live applications. The details of these applications are set out below with the figures for the two previous years for comparison:-

	<u>December</u> <u>1948.</u>	<u>December</u> <u>1949.</u>	<u>December</u> <u>1950.</u>
Childless families.	31.	53.	48.
One child families.	53.	35.	49.
Families with 2 or more children			
children.	54.	44.	57.
Old people requiring bungalows.	11.	50.	54.
	<u>149.</u>	<u>182.</u>	<u>208.</u>

It is apparent from these figures that the present rate of house building is not keeping pace with the demand; the number of new applications greatly exceeds the number of new houses built each year.

The number of persons who have applied for and are still awaiting a licence to build a house for themselves is 44.

The position on the Rothbury Estate, Pople Street, at the close of the year, was that with houses completed and those in course of erection, sites for a further 4 houses were available.

The Council decided to proceed with the Compulsory Purchase of 18 acres of land lying between Pople Street and Melton Road which would allow for the erection of approximately 146 houses.

#### (b) Housing Survey.

As time permits, during 1951, it is intended to carry out a survey of housing accommodation within the Urban District. This, when completed, should be a guide to the Council in assessing the number of new houses which will eventually be required to replace those considered beyond repair.

#### (c) Repair of Unfit Houses.

Repairs have been carried out to 27 properties during the year,



22 by the issue of informal notices and 5 by statutory notices.

(d) Section 11, Housing Act, 1936.

Action was taken under Section 11 in respect of 2 cottages and an undertaking to carry out works of renovation accepted from the owner.

(e) Improvements to existing houses.

Four existing houses were provided with bathrooms during the year.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Butchers Shops and Slaughter Houses.

These premises were regularly inspected and found to be generally clean and satisfactory. On one occasion it was necessary to report the existence of a nuisance to the Council, this was abated and warning letters were sent to the persons concerned.

There is no Ministry of Food Slaughter House in the district and the slaughter houses are therefore used only for the slaughter of pigs under licence for home consumption. Most of the pigs which passed through the 2 slaughter houses during the year were inspected.

(b) Bakehouses.

There are six bakehouses in the district, and several visits were made during the year.

The erection of a new bakehouse to replace one which was unsatisfactory was mentioned in the last two Annual Reports. This was completed during the year and came into use during August.

In two cases work was done to remedy defects after the service of informal notice, but, in general, the standard of cleanliness is satisfactory.

(c) Fried Fish Shops.

There are now four Fried Fish Shops in the district; the shop built by the Council, on the Silfield Housing Estate came into use during the year.

Regular visits have been made to the premises and I am pleased to report that the standard of cleanliness has continued to be satisfactory.

(d) Ice Cream.

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the district.

The whole of the ice cream sold from registered premises is now wrapped; storage is good in each case and in all but one the premises are satisfactory. There is a possibility of the owner of the doubtful premises proceeding with a rebuilding scheme.

Domestic Scavenging.

The domestic scavenging of the town is carried out by direct labour. One motor vehicle, a 7 cubic yard "Karrier" and 2 men are employed on the work which consists of emptying weekly:-

156 pail-closets.  
1211 dustbins.



under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Summary of Inspections, etc.

	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Informal Notices.</u>	<u>Statutory Notices.</u>
<u>Housing.</u>			
Council houses for repairs, etc.	89.	-	-
Other houses (including 12 inspections in connection with allocating Council houses).	42.	22.	5.
Pail Closets.	8.	5.	-
New houses, etc. during erection.	62.	6.	-
Drains (45 tests).	84.	-	-
<u>Water Supplies.</u>			
Town supply (4 samples taken).	9.	-	-
Other supplies (16 samples taken).	87.	8.	-
<u>Factories &amp; Workshops.</u>			
(excluding Bakehouses).	26.	1.	-
<u>Food Supplies.</u>			
Bakehouses.	15.	1.	-
Slaughter Houses, Butchers Shops.	34.	2.	-
Fried Fish Shops.	12.	-	-
Restaurants.	3.	-	-
Ice Cream (6 samples taken).	14.	-	-
Public Houses and Clubs.	15.	-	-
Food Condemnations - 2 tins (8lbs) Pork Luncheon Meat. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ stone Plaice. 4 stone Cod Fillet. 40 packets Pudding Mixture. 25 tins milk. 3 tins fish. 1 tin meat. 3 tins fruit. 1 tin pudding. 1 tin peas. 2 tins jam. 44 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. Corned Beef. 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Beef.			
<u>Swimming Baths.</u>	4.	-	-
<u>Other Inspections.</u> (Complaints, etc).	8.	2.	-
<u>Habitation Certificates.</u>			
Issued in connection with new dwellings No. 10.			
Totals	<u>512.</u>	<u>47.</u>	<u>5.</u>

I have the honour to be  
Your obedient Servant,

R.F.HUDSON,

C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.



